

Outdoor Report

The week of September, 29th 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- Starting Oct 1st, Canada goose daily limit is now 8 geese in Unit 1, possession limit 3x the daily limit.
 - Duck season runs through December 9th. Daily limit is 6 birds per day and possession limit is 3x the daily limit with 2 BONUS blue-winged teal (first 16 days of season only).
 - Light/White-fronted Goose season is September 27th to December 7th.
 - Sandhill Crane season dates September 27th to November 23rd. Daily Limit 3, possession limit 9.
 - Youth only Pheasant season runs October 4th – 8th.
 - Tundra Swan season runs October 4th – December 21st.
 - Antelope Rifle season dates are October 4th – 19th.
 - Black Hills Elk Rifle season dates are October 1st – 31st.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. Some anglers are catching the occasional Bluegill. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

Elm Lake: Anglers are catching Walleye, Crappie and Northern Pike. The bite has been inconsistent lately. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

James River: Anglers have been catching Catfish and Bullheads. The Walleye bite has been slow lately.

Elm River: Fishing has been slow lately. Some Catfish have been caught by the bridges.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Hunters have had decent success lately hunting geese. Hunters have had the best success hunting geese in wheat stubble. Scouting is the key to success. The best goose hunting has been on the eastern side of Brown County.

Dove: With the colder weather a couple weeks ago, some doves migrated out of the area. Brown County still has huntable numbers of doves, especially in southern Brown County. Dove hunters are still having the best success in harvested wheat fields, or by water.

East River Deer: All of the Brown County deer licenses sold out on the first drawing. There are still antlerless deer licenses available in Edmunds, McPherson, Faulk and Spink Counties.

Duck: Hunters had good success this weekend hunting ducks. Most hunters hunted ducks in the small sloughs over decoys. Hunters were harvesting blue-winged teal, gadwall, redheads, pintails, mallards and some green-winged teal.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Fishing continues to be slow. A few Walleye and Perch continue to be caught.

Dry Lake #1: Little activity.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Reid Lake: Little activity.

Indian Springs: Fishing continues to be slow. A few fishermen are catching some decent sized Walleye and Perch.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: A few areas of the county have some good numbers of geese and ducks staged in them. Opening weekend was good for most hunters. Majority of hunters harvested 3 to 6 ducks per hunt. Majority of ducks harvested were blue-winged teal and mallards.

Deer: Archery deer season opened this past weekend. Mornings and evenings seem to be the most active parts of the day. A few hunters reported success.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Lake Kampeska: Very little fishing pressure this week. There is always a few people fishing by Lunkers, but success has been limited.

Pelican Lake: Very slow again this week. No angler reports.

Goose Lake: Boat numbers are dropping off on the weekends, but success remains steady. Shore fishing is picking up a little bit, especially in the evenings for Perch and Walleye.

Long Lake: Very little boat traffic this week. No reports.

Dry Lake: Success is really slowing down on Dry. There are still plenty of anglers on the water, but they just aren't having great success.

Grass Lake: No activity.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch Bluegill or Trout.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Still seeing good numbers of geese feeding in wheat fields around the county. Not much hunting pressure this week due to duck opener. Most birds are concentrated on the western edge of the county and around the Goose Lake area.

Ducks: Codington County offered good duck hunting this weekend. Public land opportunity was good with hunters bagging an average of around 3 ducks per person. Hunters reported multiple species of puddle ducks being harvested, especially blue-winged teal and mallards.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Fishing pressure seems to be steady with a lot of small Walleye. Anglers who are putting the time in are catching their 15 inch Walleye.

Waubay: Anglers are catching a few nice Perch and Walleye. White Bass continue to keep the anglers busy.

Reetz: Still seeing on average 2 to 5 boats at the ramp. Anglers are catching a few nice Crappie and Perch.

Lynn: Anglers are still having decent success catching some Walleye and Perch.

Pickereel: Little activity.

Enemy Swim: Fishing pressure has slowed.

Blue Dog: Little activity.

Rush: Little activity.

Horseshoe: Fishing activity has increased over the last week. Some anglers are catching some nice Walleye and the occasional Perch.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Most hunters had minimal success harvesting geese this last weekend. Hunters who put the time in did well.

Duck: Hunters had a great weekend harvesting mixed bags of teal, mallard, wood ducks and gadwall. A good number of teal remain in the area.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: Boat anglers are catching a few Perch. There has been some shore fishing activity. Most of the Walleye are being caught on the east end of the lake and the bite has been primarily the half hour immediately following sunset. Northern Pike are being caught, as well.

Bullhead Lake: Fishing has been slow. A few anglers are picking up some Perch and the occasional Walleye.

Round Lake: A few Northern Pike are being caught from shore.

Lake Oliver: A few Perch are being caught.

School Lake: No activity.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Lake Ketchum: Anglers continue to catch small Perch with the occasional keeper in the mix.

Lake Cochrane: No activity.

Clear Lake: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Goose hunting remains good throughout the county. There are pockets of birds spread throughout the entire county. Scouting is important for success. The northern half of the county seems to be providing the best opportunity.

Dove: There are still some doves around the area. A lot of doves have moved out with the colder overnight temperatures, but there is still some opportunity.

Duck: Ducks numbers are pretty good throughout the county. Success was about average over opening weekend due to the warm weather. Duck hunting should remain average as we move into fall.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There are a few pockets of birds in the eastern and northern portions of the county. Scouting is key to finding the fields they are feeding in.

Dove: A lot of the doves have left the area, but there are still some around.

Duck: The eastern portion of the county has some good opportunities for duck hunting. There wasn't much pressure opening weekend.

East River Deer: There are still antlerless deer licenses available in Faulk County.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The Perch bite was really good, but slowed a little over the weekend. The fishing should remain good through the fall. Anglers have been focused on the southern and central portions of the lake. Most of the Perch are in the 8 to 11 inch range. No reports of Walleye activity.

Summit Lake: No reports of activity.

Hunter's Quarry: Fishing pressure has been slow, but the opportunity to catch Trout still exists.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Goose numbers remain high. Hunting pressure has been low. Scouting remains important, as the birds seem to be inconsistent.

Dove: The opportunity to hunt doves still exists, but there have been a lot of doves that have left the area.

Duck: Opening weekend provided decent opportunity for hunters to harvest some ducks. Duck numbers are still good in areas of the county.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: Some Walleye are being caught out of the boats during the day, but it takes some work to find keepers. The Perch bite is spotty, but at times can be good.

Fedt Slough: No fishing activity.

Three Buck: No fishing activity.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Not the hot and heavy Perch bite it was a week ago, but still a few boats catching Perch. Walleye are mixed in, but a lot of smaller fish.

Lake Norden: No fishing activity.

Lake Albert: Slow this week.

Lake Mary/John: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Very little goose hunting pressure this weekend due to duck opener and hunters focusing on them. We are still seeing decent numbers of geese around the county. Most birds are still feeding in harvested wheat fields, but with bean fields coming out, they could be transitioning food sources in the next few days.

Duck: Hamlin County had a great opening weekend of duck hunting. Plenty of ducks were harvested on public land, especially the Sioux Poinsett and Mickelson Marsh areas. Most of the ducks were comprised of blue-winged teal and mallards, but plenty of other puddle duck species were mixed in.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

White Lake: Slow.

Piyas Lake: Anglers are still catching Walleye and Perch.

Opitz Lake: Anglers are still catching Walleye, pulling bottom bouncers with crawlers.

South Buffalo: Anglers are catching Bluegills, with the occasional Walleye and Northern Pike.

Stink Lake: Slow.

Cattail Grade: Slow.

Roy Lake: Anglers are catching Bass, Walleye and a few Perch with the occasional Northern Pike.

Clear Lake: Anglers are catching Bass and Bluegill, with the occasional Walleye in the mornings and evenings. **Reminder: If you catch a tagged Smallmouth Bass – do not remove the tag; call the number listed on the tag to assist in the current study being conducted on this lake.**



Hunting Report:

Goose: The best spot for hunting geese seems to be on the eastern side of the county. Scouting is the key to success and make sure to have permission before entering private land.

Duck: Duck numbers look good across the county. Good luck, be safe and make sure to obtain permission before entering private land.

Deer: Archery deer hunters had minimal success over the weekend; bucks are still in bachelor groups. Scouting is key to success. Be sure to obtain permission before entering private land.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Long Lake: No activity.

Eureka Lake: No activity.

Mina Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Anderson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Goose: McPherson County is not holding very many geese. Most geese in this area can be found from Roscoe to Bowdle and up to the Hosmer area. There is very little hunting pressure. Hunters hunting in wheat fields are doing the best. Silage is still being cut and geese are starting to use these fields.

Dove: Not many around the area.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low. McPherson County is the best place to try.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. Good numbers of blue-winged teal can be found.

Swan: Some swans have already been seen in the Eureka area.

East River Deer: There are still antlerless deer licenses available in Edmunds and McPherson counties.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Walleye fishing is picking up especially in the Mustinka River portion of the lake. The White bass bite is very good, as well as the catfish bite.

Dry Wood Lake: Walleye fishing is picking up and Northern Pike bite is good.



Hunting Report:

Dove: Some birds are still in the area and can still provide some opportunity. The cold weather coming up may push them out of the area.

Goose: Numbers are good throughout the county. As more corn gets cut for silage, the opportunity for hunters will open up. Scouting is the key to success.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in the county. Most hunters had good luck hunting water due to warm temps. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Anglers are starting to catch a few Walleyes again.

Redfield Lake: Anglers are catching some Bullheads.

Turtle Creek: No fishing activity observed.

James River: Anglers are catching some Walleyes.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Geese are using silage fields throughout the county. There are still pockets of huntable numbers of birds.

Dove: A lot of the doves have left the area, but there are still some around.

Duck: There are good numbers of ducks in the area. The western side of the county is the best. Hunters had decent luck on opening weekend.

East River Deer: There are still antlerless deer licenses available in Spink County.